

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: VISIT TO INDIA BY SENIOR ERDA OFFICIAL

1. AT THE INDO-U.S. SUBCOMMISSION MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS HELD IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 16, 1977, STRONG INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE GENERAL FIELD OF ENERGY RESEARCH. VARIOUS PROPOSALS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE INDIAN DELEGATES AND ERDA IN PARTICULAR EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST IN EXPLORING PROSPECTS FOR R AND D COOPERATION WITH INDIA.

2. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THESE DISCUSSIONS DR. S. W. GOUSE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FOSSIL ENERGY AT ERDA HEADQUARTERS, PROPOSES VISITING INDIA IN NOVEMBER AND/OR DECEMBER TO SURVEY CURRENT INDIAN COAL CONVERSION ACTIVITIES. DR. GOUSE WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR COAL CONVERSION PROJECTS WITH SPECIAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 193191

EMPHASIS ON COAL GASIFICATION, FLUIDIZED BED COMBUSTION, AND COAL LIQUIFACTION. EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN SUGGESTING A TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. ALTHOUGH GOUSE IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT SPECIFIC DATES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HIM, AND WON'T KNOW FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, HE IS PREPARED TO SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN

INDIA AND WILL BE GUIDED BY YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR A PRODUCTIVE VISIT.

3. IN ADDITION, ERDA REQUESTS EMBASSY SUPPORT IN OBTAINING INFORMATION IN FOLLOWING AREAS RELATING TO COAL CONVERSION/UTILIZATION: UP-TO-DATE SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED COAL CONVERSION R AND D; LEVEL OF EFFORT IN INDIA; TOPICS UNDER INVESTIGATION; AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED. DATA ON THESE POINTS WILL BE MOST HELPFUL TO GOUSE.

4. AT THE S AND T SUBCOMMISSION MEETING, THE INDIANS SUBMITTED THREE ENERGY RELATED PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW: (1) HOT GAS CLEANUP SYSTEMS; (2) FLUIDIZED BED COMBUSTION; (3) SOLVENT REFINED COAL (SRC). ERDA'S REVIEW REVEALS THAT THE FIRST TWO PROPOSALS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION, AND THUS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO WARRANT A VISIT BY ERDA EXPERTS. WE SUGGEST THAT THE INDIANS BE ASKED TO AMPLIFY ON DATA ALREADY PRESENTED SO THAT PROPOSALS MAY BE REVIEWED WITH GOUSE AND, HOPEFULLY, RESUBMITTED FOLLOWING HIS VISIT.

5. THE THIRD PROPOSAL (SRC) HOLDS LITTLE PROSPECT OF APPROVAL. ERDA'S ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT INDIA'S EFFORT IN THIS AREA SEEMS TO BE STILL AT A RELATIVELY EXPLORATORY STAGE, PROVIDING AN INADEQUATE BASIS FOR THE DESIRED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 193191

FULL AND EQUAL COLLABORATION , AND NOT ADDING SIGNIFICANTLY TO ERDA'S PRESENT PROGRAM ON SRC.

6. THESE AND RELATED ISSUES CAN BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL BY GOUSE WHOSE VISIT SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON QUESTION OF COAL CONVERSION RESEARCH. VANCE

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